

Denise Berger

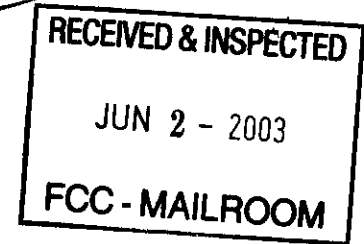
From: Cecil Lipscomb [cecil.lipscomb@centurytel.com]
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2003 2:43 PM
To: CCBSecretary
Subject: CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-21 "Waiver Request"



Holly Schools FCC Card for Cecil
Appeal.doc (... Lipscomb (384 B...

Please see attached letter of appeal concerning CenturyTel Inc.
and the Holly School District.

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June 2, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

As the new E-Rate Coordinator for CenturyTel, Inc., I have been working to improve the process flow of the E-Rate system through our organization. Having accomplished this, I have turned my attention to clearing up several old, outstanding items that were left by my predecessor and his predecessor. To this end, please accept this request and consideration for a deadline exception request.

CenturyTel Contact Information: Cecil Lipscomb
CenturyTel, Inc
100 CenturyTel Drive
Monroe, LA 71203
Phone (318) 340-5778
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e-mail: cecil.lipscomb@centurytel.com

This request is in reference to a SLD letter titled "Administrator's Decision on invoice Deadline Exception Request" dated September 21, 2001. This incident deals with a year 1 funding request. The following information should assist in any research:

SLC Invoice # 98924
471 Appl Number 69154 (Holly School District, Holly, CO)
FRN 65668 & 65673
Funding Commitment Decision Amounts: \$6,007.40 & \$38,910.61

Appeal Request:

The reasons for this request are two-fold. A statement made in the Administrator's Decision Letter strikes me as very misleading. It appears that our people realized the urgency of the approaching deadline and made every effort to insure that the deadline was met, including using an overnight mail service. The letter states that, "Invoice submitted on time but not enough time to review before invoicing deadline." In my opinion, the fact that the invoice was received in a timely manner should be sufficient, otherwise, why would a deadline date ever be established. If the SLD required 7 or 10 days to process invoice requests, then the deadline should be established 7 or 10 days earlier to allow for this processing time. As I interpret this situation, we did what was required of CenturyTel but the application was denied because the SLD was too busy.

The letter goes on to state that further appeal should be requested from the FCC, but that any such appeal must be filed within 30 days of the date of this letter (Sept. 21, 2001). To our chagrin, two of the main individuals responsible for the E-Rate program left the company during this very time. Therefore, the ball was dropped on our part concerning any follow-up to this action. In dealing with other SLD appeals, among the reasons for consideration are circumstances beyond the service provider's control. In my opinion, the loss of two key individuals from the program administration should fit this criterion.

CenturyTel Wireless, Inc.
P. O. Box 4065
Monroe, LA 71211
Tel 318 388 9000

In summary, I submit to you that had the posted deadline been observed originally, this issue would have been handled and processed some two years ago. Because it was not, the subsequent circumstances lead to a disruption of the normal flow of the E-Rate program within CenturyTel and a breakdown in the furtherance of the appeal request at that time. I have the necessary information ready to submit a proper 474 form pending your approval of this request.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Cecil Lipscomb
E-Rate Coordinator
CenturyTel, Inc.
Monroe, LA 71203
(318) 340-5778